

The are
in fear of
the Indi-
ans.

The Indi-
ans re-
ceive
them
kindly.

After a little Consideration what Course to steer next, we concluded it best to follow the Track of a *Pecary* or Wild-Hog, hoping it might bring us to some old Plantain-Walk or Potato-Piece, which these Creatures often resort to, to look for Food: This brought us, according to our expectation, to an old Plantation, and in sight of a new one. But here again fear overwhelmed us, being between two Straights, either to starve or venture up to the *Indian* Houses, whom being so near, we were now afraid of again, not knowing how they would receive us. But since there was no avoiding it, it was concluded that one should go up to the House, while the rest staid behind to see the Issue. In conclusion I went to the Plantation, and it proved the same that we came from. The *Indians* were all amazed to see me, and began to ask many Questions: But I prevented them by falling into a Swoon, occasion'd by the heat of the House, and the scent of the Meat that was boyling over the Fire. The *Indians* were very officious to help me in this Extremity, and when I revived they gave me a little to eat. Then they enquir'd of me for the other 4 Men; for whom they presently sent, and brought all but *Gobson*, who was left a little further off, and treated us all very kindly: For our long-expected Guides were now returned from the North-side, and gave large Commendations of the Kindness and Generosity of our Men; by which means all the *Indians* were become now again our very good Friends. The *Indian* who was so particularly kind to us, perceiving Mr. *Gobson* was not yet arrived at the Plantation, carried out Victuals to him, and after he was a little refreshed with that, brought him up to us. So that now we were all together again, and had a great deal of care taken of us.

Here

Here we stayed 7 Days to refresh our selves, and then took our March again : For we were desirous to get to the North-Seas as soon as we could, and they were now more willing to guide us than ever before ; since the Guides our Party took with them, had not only been dismiss'd civilly, but with Presents also of Axes, Beads, &c. The *Indians* therefore of the Village where we now were, order'd 4 lusty young Men to conduct us down again to the River over which the Tree was fallen, who going now with a good will, carried us thither in one Day ; whereas we were 3 Days the first time in going thither. When we came thither, we marched about a Mile up the River, where lay a Canoa, into which we all embarked, and the *Indians* guided us up the same River which we before thro' mistake, had strove to go down. The *Indians* paddled stoutly against the Stream till Night, and then we lodged at a House, where these Men gave such large Commendations of our Men, who were gone to the North-Sea, that the Master of the House treated us after the best Manner. The next Day we set out again with 2 *Indians* more, who made 6 in all, to row or paddle us ; and our Condition now was well altered.

In 6 Days time after this, they brought us to *Lacenta's* House, who had before saved our Lives.

This House is situated on a fine little Hill, on which grows the stateliest Grove of Cotton Trees that ever I saw. The Bodies of these Trees were generally 6 Foot in Diameter, nay some 8, 9, 10, 11 ; for 4 *Indians* and my self took hand in hand round a Tree, and could not fathom it by 3 Foot. Here was likewise a stately Plantain-walk, and a Grove of other small Trees, that would make a Pleasant artificial Wilderness, if Industry and Art were bestowed on it.

The

The Circumference of this pleasant little Hill, contains at least 100 Acres of Land; and is a Peninsula of an oval Form, almost surrounded with 2 great Rivers, one coming from the East, the other from the West; which approaching within 40 Foot of each other, at the Front of the Peninsula, separate again, embracing the Hill, and meet on the other Side, making there one pretty large River which runs very swift. There is therefore but one Way to come in towards this Seat; which as I before observed, is not above 40 Foot wide, between the Rivers on each Side; and 'tis fenced with hollow Bamboes, Popes-heads and Prickle-pears, so thick set from one Side the Neck of Land to the other, that 'tis impossible for an Enemy to approach it.

On this Hill live 50 principal Men of the Country, all under *Lacenta's* Command, who is a Prince over all the South-part of the *Isthmus* of *Darien*; the *Indians* both there and on the North-side also, paying him great Respect: But the South-side is his Country, and this Hill his Seat or Palace. There is only one Canoa belonging to it, which serves to ferry over *Lacenta* and the rest of them.

Lacenta
keeps
them with
him.

When we were arrived at this Place, *Lacenta* discharged our Guides, and sent them back again, telling us, that 'twas not possible for us to travel to the North-side at this Season; for the rainy Season was now in its Heighth, and Travelling very bad; but told us we should stay with him, and he would take care of us: And we were forc'd to comply with him.

We had not been long here before an Occurrence happen'd, which tended much to the increasing the good Opinion *Lacenta* and his People had conceiv'd of us, and brought me into particular Esteem with them.

It

It so happen'd, that one of *Lacenta's* Wives being indisposed, was to be let Blood; which the *Indians* perform in this Manner: The Patient is seated on a Stone in the River, and one with a small Bow shoots little Arrows into the naked Body of the Patient, up and down; shooting them as fast as he can, and not missing any Part. But the Arrows are gaged, so that they penetrate no farther than we generally thrust our Lancets: And if by chance they hit a Vein which is full of Wind and the Blood spurts out a little, they will leap and skip about, shewing many Antick Gestures, by way of Rejoycing and Triumph.

I was by while this was performing on *Lacenta's* Lady: And perceiving their Ignorance, told *Lacenta*, that if he pleased, I would shew him a better way, without putting the Patient to so much Torment. Let me see, says he; and at his Command I bound up her Arm with a Piece of Bark, and with my Lancet breathed a Vein: But this rash Attempt had like to have cost me my Life. For *Lacenta* seeing the Blood issue out in a Stream, which us'd to come Drop by Drop, got hold of his Lance and swore by his Tooth, that if she did any otherwise than well, he would have my Heart's Blood. I was not moved, but desired him to be patient, and I drew off about 12 Ounces, and bound up her Arm, and desired she might rest till the next Day: By which Means the Fever abated, and she had not another Fit. This gain'd me so much Reputation, that *Lacenta* came to me, and before all his Attendants, bowed and kiss'd my Hand. Then the rest came thick about me, and some kiss'd my Hand, others my Knee, and some my Foot: After which I was taken up in a Hammock, and carried on Men's Shoulders, *Lacenta* himself making a Speech in my Praise, and commending me as much superior to any of their Doctors. Thus I was carried about

The *Indi-*
any way
of letting
Blood.

The A.
bleeds *La-*
centa's
Queen.

The A.
much re-
puted for
this.

about from Plantation to Plantation, and lived in great Splendour and Repute, administering both Physick and Phlebotomy to those that wanted. For though I lost my Salves and Plaisters, when the Negro ran away with my Knapfack, yet I preserv'd a Box of Instruments, and a few Medicaments wrapt up in an Oil Cloth, by having them in my Pocket, where I generally carried them.

I lived thus some Months among the *Indians*, who in a Manner ador'd me. Some of these *Indians* had been Slaves to the *Spaniards*, and had made their Escapes; which I suppose was the Cause of their expressing a Desire of Baptism; But more to have an *European* Name given them than for any thing they know of Christianity.

He goes a
Hunting
with *Lacenta*.

Gold Ri-
ver.

The way
of gather-
ing Gold.

During my Abode with *Lacenta*, I often accompanied him a Hunting, wherein he took great Delight, here being good Game. I was one Time about the Beginning of the dry Season, accompanying him toward the South-East part of the Country, and we pass'd by a River where the *Spaniards* were gathering Gold. I took this River to be one of those which comes from the Gulph of *St. Michael*. When we came near the Place where they wrought, we stole softly through the Woods, and placing ourselves behind the great Trees, looked on them a good while, they not seeing us. The Manner of their getting Gold is as follows. They have little wooden Dishes which they dip softly into the Water, and take it up half full of Sand, which they draw gently out of the Water; and every dipping they take up Gold mix'd with the Sand Water, more or less. This they shake, and the Sand riseth, and goes over the Brims of the Dish with the Water; but the Gold settles to the Bottom. This done they bring it out and dry it in the Sun, and then pound it in a Mortar. Then they take it out and spread



Damp. Voy. 1663. The Indians manner of Bloodletting. Page 285.

spread it on Paper, and having a Load-stone they move that over it, which draws all the Iron, &c. from it, and then leaves the Gold clean from Ore or Filth; and this they bottle up in Gourds or Calabashes. In this Manner they work during the dry Season, which is 3 Months; for in the wet Time the Gold is washed from the Mountains by violent Rains, and then commonly the Rivers are very deep; but now in the gathering Season, when they are fallen again, they are not above a Foot deep. Having spent the dry Season in gathering, they embark in small Vessels for *Santa Maria* Town; and if they meet with good Success and a favourable Time, they carry with them, by Report (for I learnt these Particulars of a *Spaniard* whom we took at *Santa Maria* under Captain *Sharp*) 18 or 20000 Pound Weight of Gold: But whether they gather more or less, 'tis incredible to report the Store of Gold which is yearly wash'd down out of these Rivers. *Santa Maria.*

During these Progresses I made with *Lacenta*, my 4 Companions staid behind at his Seat; but I had by this Time so far ingratiated my self with *Lacenta*, that he would never go any where without me, and I plainly perceiv'd he intended to keep me in this Country all the Days of my Life; which raised some anxious Thoughts in me, but I conceal'd them as well as I could.

Pursuing our Sport one Day, it hapned we started a *Pecary*, which held the *Indians* and their Dogs in Play the greatest Part of the Day; till *Lacenta* was almost spent for want of Victuals, and was so troubled at his ill Success that he impatiently wish'd for some better Way of managing this Sort of Game.

I now understood their Language pretty well, and finding what troubled him, I took this Opportunity The A. moves for leave to depart.

and 'tis
granted.

tunity to attempt the getting my Liberty to depart, by commending to him our *English* Dogs, and making an Offer of bringing him a few of them from *England*, if he would suffer me to go thither for a short Time. He demur'd at this Motion a-while; but at length he swore by his Tooth, laying his Fingers on it, that I should have my Liberty, and for my Sake the other 4 with me; provided I would promise and swear by my Tooth, that I would return and marry among them; for he had made me a Promise of his Daughter in Marriage, but she was not then marriageable. I accepted of the Conditions: And he further promis'd, that at my Return he would do for me beyond my Expectation.

Hereturns
towards
Lacenta's
House;

I return'd him Thanks, and was the next Day dismiss'd under the Convoy of 7 lusty Fellows; and we had 4 Women to carry our Provisions, and my Cloaths, which were only a Linnen Frock and a pair of Breeches. These I saved to cover my Nakedness, if ever I should come among Christians again; for at this Time I went naked as the Salvages, and was painted by their Women; but I would not suffer them to prick my Skin, to rub the Paint in, as they use to do, but only to lay it on in little Specks.

and arrives
there.

Thus we departed from the Neighbourhood of the South Seas, where *Lacenta* was hunting, to his Seat or Palace, where I arrived in about 15 Days, to the great Joy of my Consorts; who had staid there during this hunting Expedition I made with *Lacenta* to the South-East.

After many Salutations on both Sides, and some joyful Tears, I told them how I got my Liberty of *Lacenta*, and what I promised at my Return; and they were very glad at the Hopes of getting away, after so long a Stay in a Salvage Country.

I stayed

I staid here some few Days till I was refreshed, and then with my Companions marched away for the North-Seas, having a strong Convoy of armed *Indians* for our Guides.

We travelled over many very high Mountains; The main at last we came to one surpassing the rest in Heighth, ^{Ridge of} to which we were 4 Days gradually ascending, tho' ^{Land.} and then with some Descent between while. Being on the Top, I perceiv'd a strange Giddiness in my Head, and enquiring both of my Companions, and the *Indians*, they all assured me they were in the like Condition: which I can only impute to the Height of the Mountains, and the Clearness of the Air. I take this part of the Mountains to have been higher than either that which we cross'd with Captain *Sharp*, or that which Mr. *Dampier* and the rest of our Party cross'd in their Return: For from this Eminence, the Tops of the Mountains over which we pass'd before, seem'd very much below us, and sometimes we could not see them for the Clouds between; but when the Clouds flew over the Tops of the Hill, they would break, and then we could discern them, looking as it were thro' so many Loop-holes.

I desired 2 Men to lie on my Legs, while I laid my Head over that Side of the Mountain which was most perpendicular; but could see no Ground for the Clouds that were between. The *Indians* carried us over a Ridge so narrow that we were forced to straddle over on our Breeches; and the *Indians* took the same Care of themselves, handing their Bows, Arrows, and Luggage, from one to another. As we descended we were all cured of our Giddiness.

When we came to the Foot of the Mountain we found a River that ran into the North-Seas, and near the Side of it were a few *Indian* Houses, which *Indians* afforded us indifferent good Entertainment. Here ^{Settle-}ment.

we lay one Night, it being the first House I had seen for 6 Days; my Lodging by the way being in a Hammock made fast to 2 Trees, and my Covering a Plantain-Leaf.

They
come to
the Sea-
side.

Indians in
their
Gowns.

The next Morning we set forward, and in 2 Days Time arrived at the Sea-side, and were met by 40 of the best Sort of *Indians* in the Country, who congratulated our coming and welcom'd us to their Houses. They were all in their finest Robes, which are long white Gowns, reaching to their Ancles, with Fringes at the Bottom, and in their Hands they had half Pikes. But of these Things, and such other Particulars as I observ'd during my Abode in this Country, I shall say more when I come to describe it.

The In-
dians fall
to Conju-
ring.

Pawawing

We presently enquired of these *Indians* when they expected any Ships? They told us they knew not, but would enquire; and therefore they sent for one of their Conjurers, who immediately went to work to raise the Devil, to enquire of him at what Time a Ship would arrive here; for they are very expert and skilful in their Sort of Diabolical Conjurations. We were in the House with them, and they first began to work with making a Partition with Hammocks, that the *Pawawers*, for so they call these Conjurers, might be by themselves. They continued some time at their Exercise, and we could hear them make most hideous Yellings and Shrieks; imitating the Voices of all their kind of Birds and Beasts. With their own Noise, they joyn'd that of several Stones struck together, and of Conch-shells, and of a sorry Sort of Drums made of hollow Bamboes, which they beat upon; making a jarring Noise also with Strings fasten'd to the larger Bones of Beasts. And every now and then they would make a dreadful Exclamation, and clattering all of a sudden, would as suddenly make a Pause and a profound Silence. But finding that after a considerable

nable Time no Answer was made them, they concluded that 'twas because we were in the House, and so turn'd us out, and went to work again. But still finding no Return, after an Hour or more, they made a new Search in our Apartment; and finding some of our Cloaths hanging up in a Basket against the Wall, they threw 'em out of Doors in great Disdain. Then they fell once more to their *Pawawing*; and after a little Time they came out with their Answer, but all in a Muck-sweat; so that they first went down to the River and washed themselves, and then came and deliver'd the Oracle <sup>The Answer made to the Con-
juring.</sup> That the 10th Day from that Time there would arrive 2 Ships; and that in the Morning of the 10th Day we should hear first one Gun, and sometime after that another; that one of us should die soon after; and that going aboard we should lose one of our Guns: All which fell out exactly according to the Prediction.

For on the 10th Day in the Morning we heard the Guns, first one, and then another, in that Manner <sup>Two Ships
arriv'd.</sup> that was told us; and one of our Guns or Fuses was lost in going aboard the Ships; For we 5, and 3 of the *Indians* went off to the Ships in a *Canoe*; but as we cross'd the Bar of the River it overset, where Mr. *Gopson*, one of my *Conforts*, was like to be drowned; and tho' we recover'd him out of the Water, yet he lost his Gun according to the Prediction. I know not how this happen'd as to his Gun; but ours were all lash'd down to the Side of the *Canoe*: And in the *West-Indies* we never go into a *Canoe* but a little Matter oversets, but we make fast our Guns to the Sides or Seats: And I suppose Mr. *Gopson*, who was a very careful and sensible Man, had lash'd down his also, tho' not fast enough.

They go
off to the
Ships.

Being over-set, and our Canoa turn'd upside down, we got to Shore as well as we could, and dragg'd Mr. *Gopson* with us, tho' with Difficulty. Then we put off again, and kept more along the Shore, and at length stood over to *La Sound's* Key, where the 2 Ships lay, an *English* Sloop, and a *Spanish* Tartan, which the *English* had taken but 2 or 3 Days before. We knew by the Make of this last that it was a *Spanish* Vessel, before we came up with it. But seeing it in Company with an *English* one, we thought they must be Consorts; and whether the *Spanish* one should prove to be under the *English* one, or the *English* under that, we were resolv'd to put it to the Venture, and get aboard, being quite tired with our Stay among the wild *Indians*. The *Indians* were more afraid of its being a Vessel of *Spaniards*, their Enemies as well as ours: For this was another Particular they told us 10 Days before, when they were *Pawawing*, that when their Oracle inform'd them that 2 Vessels would arrive at this Time, they understood by their Dæmons Answer, that one of them would be an *English* one; but as to the other, he spake so dubiously, that they were much afraid it would be a *Spanish* one; and 'twas not without great Difficulty that we now perswaded them to go aboard with us; which was another remarkable Circumstance, since this Vessel was not only a *Spanish* one, but actually under the Command of the *Spaniards* at the Time of the *Pawawing*, and some Days after, till taken by the *English*.

They and
the *Indians*,
receiv'd a-
board.

We went aboard the *English* Sloop, and our *Indians*, as Friends with us, and were receiv'd with a very hearty Welcome. The 4 *Englishmen* with me were presently known and caref'd by the Ship's Crew, but I sat a while cringing upon my Hams among the *Indians*, after their Fashion, painted as they were, and all naked but only about the Waist, and with my Nose-piece (of which more hereafter) hanging

ing over my Mouth. I was willing to try if they knew me in this Disguise ; and 'twas the better Part of an Hour before one of the Crew, looking more narrowly upon me, cry'd out, *Here's our Doctor* ; and immediately they all congratulated my Arrival among them. I did what I could presently to wash off my Paint ; but 'twas near a Month before I could get tolerably rid of it, having had my Skin so long stain'd with it, and the Pigment dry'd on in the Sun. And when it did come off, 'twas usually with the peeling off of Skin and all. As for Mr. *Gasfon*, we brought him alive to the Ship, yet he did not recover his Fatigues, and his drenching in the Water, but having languish'd aboard about 3 Days, he died there at *La Sound's* Key ; and his Death verifi'd another Part of the *Pawawer's* Prediction. Our *Indians*, having been kindly entertained aboard for about 6 or 7 Days ; and many others of them, who went to and fro with their Wives and Children, and *Lacenta* among them, visiting us about a Fortnight or 3 Weeks, we at length took leave of them, except 2 or 3 of them who would needs go with us to Windward ; and we set sail, with the *Tartane* in our Company, first to the more Eastern Isles of the *Samballoe's*, and then towards the Coast of *Cartagene*.

But I shall not enter into the Discourse of our Voyage after this, Mr. *Dampier*, who was in the same Vessel, having done it particularly. It may suffice just to intimate, That I was cruising with him up and down the *West-India* Coast and Island, partly under Capt. *Wright*, and partly under Capt. *Tanky* till such time as Capt. *Tanky* left Mr. *Dampier* and the rest under Capt. *Wright*, at the Isle of *Salt Tor-tuga*, as Mr. *Dampier* relates in the 3d Chapter of his *Voyage round the World*, p. 58. I went then away with Capt. *Tanky* first to the Isle of *Afo* where the *French* took us, as he relates occasionally, Chap. 4.

The A.
washes off
his Paint.

Mr. Gasfon
dies.

The Indi-
ans return
ashore.

They set
sail to-
wards
Cartagene.

The A's
Coasting
about the
W. Indies
with Mr.
Dampier
and with
Capt.
Tanky.

His Arrival in Virginia. He goes into the S. Seas with Mr. Dampier,

and parts with him there.

This Relation discontinued, to describe the Isthmus.

p. 68. as also their turning us there ashore; our being taken in by Capt. *Tristian* another *French* Man; his carrying us with him almost to *Petit-Guaves*; our Men seizing the Ship when he was gone ashore, carrying it back to the *Isle of Ash*, and there taking in the rest of our Crew: The taking the *French* Ship with Wines, and the other in which Capt. *Cook*, who was then of our Crew, went afterwards to the South-Seas, after having first been at *Tristan*. So that we arrived in *Virginia* with *Mr. Dampier* the 3^d of 10 Months after Mr. *Dampier* came on board. I went with him also in that new Expedition to the South-Seas under Capt. *Cook*, though he forgot to mention me in that Part of his Voyages. We went round *Terra del Fuego*, and so up the South-Sea Coast, along *Chili*, *Peru*, and *Mexico*, as he relates at large in his 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th Chapters, p. 223. There he tells how Capt. *Davis*, who had succeeded Capt. *Cook* at his Death, broke off Consortship with Capt. *Swan*, whom we had met with in the South-Seas. That himself being desirous to stand over to the *East-Indies*, went aboard Capt. *Swan*: But I remain'd aboard the same Ship, now under Capt. *Davis*, and return'd with him the way I came. Some few Particulars that I observ'd in that Return, I shall speak of at the Conclusion of the Book: In the mean while, having given this Summary account of the Course of my Travels, from my first parting with Mr. *Dampier* in the *Isthmus*, till my last leaving him in the *South-Seas*, I shall now go on with the particular Description of the *Isthmus* of *America*, which was the main Thing I intended in publishing these Relations.

Mr.



Mr. WAFER's Description of the Isthmus of
America.

THE Country I am going to describe is the narrowest Part of the *Isthmus of America*, ^{Darien.} which is more peculiarly call'd the *Isthmus of Darien*; probably from the great River of that Name, wherewith its Northern Coast is bounded to the East: ^{River of Darien.} For beyond this River the Land spreads so to the East and North-East, as that on the other Coast ^{Extent of the Isthmus.} does to the South and South-East, that it can no further be called an *Isthmus*. It is mostly comprehended between the Latitudes of 8 and 10 N. but its breadth in the narrowest Part, is much about one Degree. How far it reaches in length Westward under the Name of the *Isthmus of Darien*; whether as far as *Honduras*, or *Nicaragua*, or no further than the River *Chagre*, or the Towns of *Portobel* and *Panama*, I cannot say.

This last is the Boundary of what I mean to describe; and I shall be most particular as to the middle Part even of this, as being the Scene of my Abode and Ramble in that Country: Tho' what I shall have occasion to say as to this Part of the *Isthmus*, will be in some Measure applicable to the Country even beyond *Panama*.

Were I to fix particular Limits to this narrowest Part of the *American Isthmus*, I would assign for its Western Term, a Line which should run from the Mouth of the River *Chagre*, where it falls into the North-Sea, to the nearest Part of the South-Sea, Westward of *Panama*; including thereby that City, and *Portobel*, with the Rivers of *Cheapo* and *Chagre*. And I should draw a Line from Point *Garachina*, or

the South-part of the Gulph of St. *Michael*, directly East, to the nearest Part of the great River of *Darien*, for the Eastern Boundary, so as to take *Caret Bay* into the *Isthmus*. On the North and South it is sufficiently bounded by each of these vast Oceans: and considering that this is the narrowest Land that disjoins them, and how exceeding great the Compass is that must be taken from one shore to the other by Sea, *being* the North and South *America* for each Extreme, is of a very familiar Situation, very pleasant and agreeable.

Nor doth either of these Oceans shut in at once, upon the Shore, but is intercepted by a great many valuable Islands, that lie scatter'd along each Coast: The *Bastimento's* and others; but especially the long Range of the *Samballoe's*, on the North-side; and the *King's* or *Pearl Islands*, *Perica* and others in the Bay of *Panama*, on the South-side. This Bay is caus'd by the bending of the *Isthmus*: And for the bigness of it, there is not, it may be, a more pleasant and advantageous one any where to be found.

The Land of this Continent is almost every where of an unequal Surface, distinguish'd with Hills and Valleys, of great Variety for Height, Depth, and Extent. The Valleys are generally water'd with Rivers, Brooks, and Perennial Springs, with which the Country very much abounds. They fall some into the North, and others into the South; and do most of them take their Rise from a Ridge or Chain of higher Hills than the rest, running the length of the *Isthmus*, and in a manner parrallel to the Shore, which for distinction's-sake, I shall call the *Main Ridge*.

This Ridge is of an unequal Breadth, and runs along bending as the *Isthmus* it self doth. The most part nearest the Edge of the North-Sea, is seldom above 10 or 15 Miles distant. We had almost a fair and clear View of the North-Sea from thence, and

and the various Makings of the Shore, together with Fine Pros-
 the adjacent Illands, render'd it a very agreeable^{pect.}
 Prospect; but the South-Sea I could not see from
 any Part of the Ridge. Not that the distance of it
 from the South-Sea is so great, as that the Eye could
 not reach so far, especially from such an Eminence,
 were the Country between a Level or Champian:
 But though there are here and there Plains and
 Valleys of a considerable Extent and some open
 Places, yet they lie intermix'd with considerable
 Hills; and those too so cloath'd with tall Woods,
 that they much hinder the Prospect which would
 otherwise be. Neither on the other side is the main^{Hills to}
 Ridge discern'd from that Side, by Reason of those^{the S. of}
 Hills that lie between it and the South-Sea: upon^{Ridge.}
 ascending each of which in our Return from the
 South-Sea, we expected to have been upon the main
 Ridge, and to have seen the North-Sea. And tho'
 still the further we went that way, the Hills we
 cross'd seem'd the larger; yet by this means, we
 were less sensible of the Heighth of the main Ridge,
 than if we had climb'd up to it next way out of a
 low Country.

On the North-side of the main Ridge, there are^{N. side all}
 either no Hills at all, or such as are rather gentle^{a Forest.}
 Declivities or gradual Subsidings of the Ridge, than
 Hills distinct from it: And though this Side of the
 Country is every where covered with Woods, and
 more universally too, for it is all one continued Fo-
 rest, yet the Eye from that Heighth commands the
 less distant Northern Shore with much ease and
 Pleasure.

Nor is the main Ridge it self carried on every^{Breaks in}
 where with a continued Top; but is rather a Row^{the main}
 or Chain of distinct Hills, than one prolonged: ^{Ridge.}
 And accordingly hath frequent and large Valleys
 disjoining the several Eminencies that compose its
 length: And these Valleys, as they make even the
 Ridge

Ridge it self the more useful and habitable, so are they some of them so deep in their Descent, as even to admit a Passage for Rivers. For thus the *R. Chagre*. River *Chagre*, which rises from some Hills near the South-Sea, runs along in an Oblique North Westerly Course, till it finds it self a Passage into the North-Sea, tho' the Chain of Hills, if I mistake not, is extended much farther to the West, even to the Lake of *Nicarague*.

The Rivers, Brooks and Springs of the N. Coast. The Rivers that water this Country are some of them indifferent large; though but few navigable, as having Bars and Sholes at the Mouths. On the North-Sea Coast the Rivers are for the most Part very small; for rising generally from the main Ridge, which lies near that Shore, their Course is very short. The River of *Darien* is indeed a very large one; but the depth at the Entrance is not answerable to the wideness of its Mouth, though 'tis deep enough further in: But from thence to *Chagre*, the whole length of this Coast, they are little better than Brooks: Nor is the River of *Conception* any other, which comes out over-against *La Sound's* Key in the *Sambaloes*. The River of *Chagre* is pretty considerable; for it has a long bending Coast, rising as it does from the South and East-part of the *Isthmus*, and at such a distance from its Outlet. But in general, the North-Coast is plentifully watered; yet it is chiefly with Springs and Rivulets, trickling down from the Neighbouring Hills.

River of *Conception*.
R. Chagre.

The Soil on this North-Coast is various; generally 'tis good Land, rising in Hills; but to the Sea there are here and there Swamps, yet seldom above half a Mile broad.

The Soil by *Caret* Bay.

Inclusively from *Caret* Bay, which lies in the River of *Darien*, and is the only Harbour in it, to the Promontory near *Golden Island*, the Shore of the *Isthmus* is indifferently fruitful, partly Sandy Bay; but part of it is drowned, swampy, Mangrove Land, where

where there is no going ashore but up to the Middle in Mud. The Shore of this Coast rises in Hills presently; and the main Ridge is about 5 or 6 Miles distant. *Caret Bay* hath 2 or 3 Rivulets of fresh Water falling into it, as I am informed; for I have not been there. It is a little Bay, and two small Islands lying before it, make it an indifferent good Harbour, and hath clear Anchoring Ground, without any Rocks. These Islands are pretty high Land, clothed with variety of Trees.

To the Westward of the Cape, at the Entrance Bay near the River *Darien*, is another fine sandy Bay. In the Entrance of the Cod of it lies a little, low, swampy Island; the River about which 'tis shole Water and dirty Ground, not of *Darien*. fit for Shipping; and the shore of the *Isthmus* behind and about it, is swampy Land overgrown with Mangroves; till after 3 or 4 Miles the Land ascends up to the main Ridge. But though the Cod of this Bay be so bad, yet the entrance of it is deep Water, and hard sandy bottom, excellent for anchoring; and has 3 Islands lying before it, which make it an extraordinary good Harbour. The Easternmost of these 3 is *Golden Island*, a small one, with a fair deep Channel between it and the Main. It is rocky and steep all round to the Sea, (and thereby naturally fortified) except only the Landing-place, which is a small sandy Bay on the South-side, towards the Harbour. It is moderately high, and cover'd with small Trees or Shrubs. The Land of the *Isthmus* opposite to it, to the South-East, is excellent fruitful Land, of a black Mold, with Sand intermix'd; and is pretty level for 4 or 5 Mile, till you come to the foot of the Hills. At this place we landed at our going into the South-Seas with Capt. *Sharp*. I have been ashore at this *Golden Island*, and was lying in the Harbour near it for about a Fortnight together before I went into the *South-Seas*. Near the Eastern-Point

Point of the Bay, which is not above 3 or 4 Furlongs distant from *Golden Island*, there is a Rivulet of very good Water.

Another
Island.

West of *Golden Island* lies the biggest of the 3 that face the Bay; it is ~~is~~ as a large low swampy Island, so beset with Mangroves, that it is difficult to go ashore; nor did any of us care to attempt it, having no Business in such bad Ground. It lies very near a Point of the *Isthmus* which is such a Sort of Ground too; for a Mile or 2 farther Westward; and such also is the Ground on the other Side, quite into the Cod of the Bay. This Island is scarce parted from the *Isthmus* but at High-water; and even then Ships cannot pass between.

Island of
Pines.

The *Island of Pines* is a small Island to the North of the other 2, making a Kind of Triangle with them. It rises in 2 Hills, and is a very remarkable Land off at Sea. It is cover'd all over with good tall Trees, fit for any Use; and has a fine Rivulet of fresh Water. The North of it is rocky, as is the opposite Shore of the *Isthmus*. On the South you go ashore on the Island at a curious Sand-bay, inclosed between 2 Points like a Half-Moon; and there is very good Riding. You may sail quite round the Island of *Pines*; but to go to *Golden Island Harbour*, you must enter by the East-end of *Golden Islands*, between that and the Main; for there is no passing between it and the great low Island.

The Shore
to Point
Samballas.

From these Islands, and the low swampy Point opposite to them, the Shore runs North-Westerly to Point *Samballas*; and for the first 3 Leagues 'tis guarded with a Riff of Rocks, some above, and some under Water, where a Boat cannot go ashore. The Rocks lie scatter'd unequally in Breadth, for a Mile in some Places, in others 2 from the Shore. At the North-West-End of these Rocks, is a fine little sandy Bay, with good anchoring and going ashore

ashore, as is reported by several Privateers: And the End of the Rocks on the one Side, and some of the *Samballoe* Islands, (the Range of which begins from hence) on the other Side, guard it from the Sea, and make it a very good Harbour. This, as well as the rest, is much frequented by Privateers; and is by those of our Country call'd, *Tickle me quickly Harbour*.

All along from hence to Point *Sanballas*, lie the *Samballoe* Islands, a great Multitude of them scattering in a Row, and collaterally too, at very unequal Distances, some of one, some 2, or 2 Mile and a half, from the Shore, and from one another; which, with the adjacent Shore, its Hills and perpetual Woods, make a lovely Landscap off at Sea. There are a great many more of these Islands than could well be represented in the Map; some of them also being very small. They seem to lie parcell'd out in Clusters, as it were; between which generally, there are navigable Channels, by which you may enter within them; and the Sea between the whole Range and the *Isthmus* is navigable from End to End, and affords every where good anchoring, in hard sandy Ground, and good Landing on the Islands and Main. In this long Channel, on the Inside of some or other of those little Keys or Islands, be the Winds how they will, you never fail of a good Place for any Number of Ships to ride at; so that this was the greatest Rendezvous of the Privateers on this Coast; but chiefly *La Sound's Key*, or *Springer's Key*, especially if they staid any Time here as well because these 2 Islands afford a good Shelter for careening, as because they yield Wells of fresh Water upon digging, which few of the rest do. The *Samballoe's* are generally low, flat, sandy Islands, cover'd with Variety of Trees; [especially Trees in with Mammes, Sapadilloes, and Manchineel, &c. the *Samballoe's* beside the Shell-fish, and other Refreshments they afford

afford the Privateers.] The outermost Keys towards the main Sea, are rocky on that Side (and are called the Riffe Keys;) their opposite Sides are sandy, as the innermost Keys or Islands are. And there is a Ridge also of Rocks lying off at Sea on the Out-side, which appear above Water at some half a Mile distance, and extend in length as far as *La Sound's* Key, if not farther, and even the Sea between, and the Shore of the *Samballoe*s it self on that Side, is all rocky.

Channel
of the
*Samballoe*s

The long Channel between the *Samballoe*s and the *Isthmus* is of 2, 3 and 4 Miles breadth; and the Shore of the *Isthmus* is partly Sandy Bays, and partly Mangrove Land, quite to Point *Samballas*. The Mountains are much at the same Distance of 6 or 7

R. of *Con*
ception and
adjacent
Coast.

Mile from the Shore; but about the River of *Conception*, which comes out about a Mile or 2 to the Eastward of *La Sound's* Key, the main Ridge is somewhat further distant. Many little Brooks fall into the Sea on either Side of that River, and the Outlets are some of them in the Sandy Bay, and some of them among the Mangrove Land; the Swamps of which Mangrove are (on this Coast) made by the Salt Water, so that the Brooks which come out there are brackish; but those in the Sandy Bay yield very sweet Water. None of these Outlets, not the River of *Conception* it self, are deep enough to admit of any Vessel but Canoes, the Rivers on this part of the Coast being numerous but shallow; but the fine Riding in the Channel makes any other Harbour needless. I have been up and

Good
Landing.

down most Parts of it, and upon many of the Islands, and there the going ashore is always easy. But a Sea-wind makes a great Sea sometimes fall in upon the *Isthmus*, especially where a Channel opens between the Islands; so that I have been over-set in a Canoe going ashore in one River, and in putting off to Sea from another. The Ground hereabouts

bouts is an excellent Soil within Land, rising up gently to the main Ridge, and is a continued Forest of stately Timber-Trees.

Point *Sanballas* is a rocky Point, pretty long and low, and is also so guarded with Rocks for a Mile off at Sea, that it is dangerous coming near it. From hence the Shore runs West, and a little Northerly, quite to *Portobel*. About 3 Leagues Westward from this Point lies Port *Scrivan*. The Coast between them is all rocky, and the Country within Land all woody, as in other Parts.

Port *Scrivan* is a good Harbour, when you are got into it; but the Entrance of it, which is scarce a Furlong over, is so beset with Rocks on each Side, but especially to the East, that it is very dangerous going in: Nor doth there seem to be a Depth of Water sufficient to admit Vessels of any Bulk, there being in most Places but 8 or 9 Foot Water. The Inside of the Harbour goes pretty deep within the Land; and as there is good Riding, in a sandy Bottom, especially at the Cod of it, which is also fruitful Land, and has good fresh Water, so there is good Landing too on the East and South, where the Country is low for 2 or 3 Miles, and very firm Land; but the West-side is a Swamp of red Mangroves. It was here at this Swamp, as bad a Passage as it is, that Capt. *Coxon*, *La Sound*, and the Privateers landed in the Year 1678-9, when they went to take *Portobel*. They had by this Means a very tedious and wearisome March; but they chose to land at this Distance from the Town, rather than at the *Bastimento's* or any nearer Place, that they might avoid being discover'd by the Scouts which the *Spaniards* always keep in their Neighbourhood, and so might surprize them. And they did, indeed, by this Means avoid being discern'd, till they came within an Hour's March of the Town; tho' they travelled along the Country

try for 5 or 6 Days. The *Spaniards* make no Use of this Port *Scrivan*; and unless a Privateer, or a rambling Sloop put in here by Chance, no Vessel visits it in many Years.

From Port *Scrivan* to the Place where stood formerly the City of *Nombre de Dios*, 'tis further Westward about 7 or 8 Leagues. The Land between is very uneven, with small Hills steep against the Sea; the Valleys between them water'd with sorry little Rivers. The Soil of the Hills is rocky, producing but small shrubby Trees; the Valleys are some of good Land, some of Swamps and Mangroves. The main Ridge here seems to lie at a good Distance from the Sea; for it was not discernible in this March of the Privateers along the Shore to *Portobel*.

*Nombre de
Dios.*

The Place where *Nombre de Dios* stood is the Bottom of a Bay, close by the Sea, all over-grown with a Sort of Wild-Canes, like those us'd by our Anglers in *England*. There is no Sign of a Town remaining, it is all so over-run with these Canes. The Situation of it seems to have been but very indifferent, the Bay before it lying open to the Sea, and affording little Shelter for Shipping; which I have heard was one Reason why the *Spaniards* forsook it: And another, probably, was the Unhealthiness of the Country it self, it being such low swampy Land, and very sickly; yet there is a Rivulet of very sweet Waters which runs close by the East-side of the Town. The Mouth of the Harbour is very wide; and tho' I have heard that there lie before it 2 or 3 little Keys, or Rocks, yet they afforded no great Security to it. So that the *Spaniards* were certainly much in the right, for quitting this Place to settle at *Portobel*; which tho' it be also an unhealthy Place, yet has it the Advantage of a very good and defensible Harbour.

About

About a Mile or 2 to the Westward of these small Islands, at the Mouth of the Bay of *Nombre de Dios*, and about half a Mile or more from the Shore, lie a few Islands call'd the *Bastimento's*, for the most part pretty high, and one peaked, and all cloath'd with Woods. On one of them, (part of which also was a sandy Bay, and a good Riding and Landing-place) there is a Spring of very good Water. I was ashore at this Island, and up and down among the rest of them; and all of them together make a very good Harbour between them and the *Isthmus*. The Bottom affords good anchoring; and there is good coming in with the Sea-wind between the Eastermost Island and the next to it, and going out with the Land-wind the same way, this being the chief Passage. Further West, before you come to *Portobel*, lie 2 small Islands, flat, and without Wood or Water. They are pretty close together; and one of them I have been ashore upon. The Soil is sandy, and they are environ'd with Rocks towards the Sea; and they lie so near the *Isthmus* that there is but a very narrow Channel between, not fit for Ships to come into.

The Shore of the *Isthmus* hereabouts consists mostly of sandy Bays, after you are past a Ridge of Rocks that run out from the Bay of *Nombre de Dios*, pointing toward the *Bastimento's*. Beyond the *Bastimento's* to *Portobel*, the Coast is generally rocky. Within Land the Country is full of high and steep Hills, very good Land; most woody, unless where clear'd for Plantations by *Spanish Indians*, tributary to *Portobel*, whither they go to Church. And these are the first Settlements on this Coast under the *Spanish* Government, and lie scattering in lone Houses or little Villages, from hence to *Portobel* and beyond; with some Look-outs or Watches kept towards the Sea, for the Safety of the Town. In all the rest of the North-side

of the *Isthmus*, which I have described hitherto, the *Spaniards* had neither Command over the *Indians*, nor Commerce with them while I was there, though there are *Indians* inhabiting all along the Continent; yet one has told me since, that the *Spaniards* have won them over to them.

Portobel.
The Har-
bour.

Portobel is a very fair, large and commodious Harbour, affording good Anchoring and good Shelter for Ships, having a narrow Mouth, and spreading wider within. The *Galleons* from *Spain* find good Riding here during the Time of their Business at *Portobel*; for from hence they take in such of the Treasures of *Peru* as are brought thither over Land from *Panama*. The Entrance of this

The Ports.

Harbour is secur'd by a Fort upon the left Hand going in; it is a very strong one, and the Passage is made more secure by a Block-House on the other Side, opposite to it. At the Bottom of the Harbour lies the Town, bending along the Shore like a Half-moon: In the Middle of which upon the Sea is another small low Fort, environ'd with Houses, except only to the Sea: And at the West-end of the Town, about a Furlong from the Shore, upon a gentle Rising, lies another Fort, pretty large and very strong, yet over look'd by a Neighbouring Hill further up the Country, which Sir *Henry Morgan* made use of to take the Fort. In all these Forts there may be about 2 or 300 *Spanish* Soldiers in Gar-

The
Town.

rison. The Town is long and narrow, having two principal Streets besides those that go a-crofs; with a small Parade about the Middle of it, surrounded with pretty fair Houses. The other Houses also and Churches are pretty handsome, after the *Spanish* Make. The Town lies open to the Country without either Wall or Works; and at the East-side of it, where the Road to *Panama* goes out (because of Hills that lie to the Southward of the Town, and obstruct the direct Passage) there lies a

Road to
Panama.

long

long Stable running North and South from the Town to which it joins. This is the King's Stable for the Mules that are employed in the Road betwixt this and *Panama*. The Governour's House is close by the great Fort, on the same Rising, at the West of the Town. Between the Parade in the Middle of the Town, and the Governour's House, is a little Creek or Brook, with a Bridge over it; and at the East-end, by the Stable, is a small Rivulet of fresh Water. I have already said that it is an unhealthy Place. The East-side is low and swampy; and the Sea at low Water leaves the Shore within the Harbour bare, a great way from the Houses; which having a black filthy Mud, it stinks very much, and breeds noisom Vapours, through the Heat of the Climate. From the South and the East-sides the Country rises gently in Hills, which are partly Woodland and partly Savannah; but there is no great Store either of Fruit-trees or Plantations near the Town. This Account I have had from several Privateers just as they return'd from *Portobel*; but I have not been there my self.

The Country beyond this West-ward, to the Mouth of the River *Chagre*, I have seen off at Sea; But not having been ashore there, I can give no other Account of it, but only that it is partly hilly, and near the Sea very much swampy; and I have heard by several that there is no Communication between *Portobel* and the Mouth of that River.

I have been yet further Westward on this Coast, before I went over the *Isthmus* with Capt. *Sharp*, ranging up and down and carreening at *Bocca Toro* and *Bocca Drago*; but this is without the Verge of those Bounds I have set my self.

Having thus survey'd the North-Coast of the *Isthmus*, I shall take a light View of the South Coast of the *Isthmus*. But I shall the less need to be particular in it, because

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because Mr. *Dampier* hath in some Measure describ'd this part of it in his *Voyage round the World*.

Point Garachina.

To begin therefore from Point *Garachina*, which makes the West-side of the Mouth of the River of *Sambo*, this Point is pretty high fast Land; but within towards the River, it is low, drowned Mangrove, and so are all the Points of Land to Cape *Saint Lorenzo*.

Cape St. Lorenzo.

R. *Sambo*.

The River of *Sambo* I have not seen; but it is said to be a pretty large River. Its Mouth opens to the North; and from thence the Coast bears

Gulph of S. Michael

North-East to the Gulph of *St. Michael*. This Gulph is made by the Outlets of several Rivers, the most noted of which are the River of *Santa Maria*, and the River of *Congo*; tho' there are others of a considerable Bigness. Of these Rivers to the Southward of *Santa Maria*, one is called the *Gold River*, affording Gold Dust in great Plenty: For hither the *Spaniards* of *Panama* and *Santa Maria* Town bring up their Slaves to gather up the Gold Dust.

R. *Santa Maria*.

The next to the *Gold River* is that of *Santa Maria*, so called from the Town of that Name seated on the South-side of it, at a good Distance from the Sea. It was along this River we came, when we first entred the South Seas with Capt. *Sharp*, standing over it, from the Bay by *Golden Island*, where we landed. We then took the Town of *Santa Maria* in our way; which was garrison'd with about 200 *Spanish* Soldiers, but was not very strong, having no Walls; and the Fort it self was secur'd with Stockadoes only, or Pallisadoes. This is but a new Town, being built by the *Spaniards* of *Panama*, partly for a Garrison and Magazine of Provision, and partly for Quarters of Refreshment, and a retiring Place for their Workmen in the *Gold River*. The Country all about here is woody and low, and very unhealthy; the Rivers being so oazy, that

Santa Maria Town.

The Country about.

that the stinking Mud infects the Air: But the little Village of *Scuchadero* lies on the Right-side of the *Scuchadero* River of *Santa Maria*, near the Mouth of it, is seated on fast rising Ground, open to the Gulph of *St. Michael*, and admitting fresh Breezes from the Sea; so that this is pretty healthy and serves as a place of Refreshment for the Mines; and has a fine Rivulet of very sweet Water; whereas those Rivers are brackish for a considerable way up the Country.

Between *Scuchadero* and Cape *St. Lorenzo*, which *R. Congo* makes the North-side of the Gulph of *St. Michael*, the River of *Congo* falls into the Gulph; which River is made up of many Rivulets, that fall from the Neighbouring Hills, and join into one Stream. The Mouth of it is muddy, and bare for a great way, at low Water, unless just in the Depth of the Channel; and it affords little Entertainment for Shipping. But further in, the River is deep enough; so that Ships coming in at high Water might find it a very good Harbour, if they had any Business here. The Gulph it self hath several Islands in it; and up and down in and about them, there is in many Places very good Riding; for the most Part in oazy Ground. The Islands also, especially those towards the Mouth, make a good Shelter; and the Gulph hath room enough for a Multitude of Ships. The Sides are every where surrounded with Mangroves, growing in wet swampy Land.

North of this Gulph is a small Creek, where we landed at our Return out of the Seas; and the Land between these is partly such Mangrove Land as the other, and partly Sandy-Bays. From thence the Land runs further on North, but gently bending to the West: And this Coast also is much such a mixture of Mangrove Land and Sandy Bay quite to the River *Cheapo*; and in many Places there are

Sholes. Sholes, for a Mile, or half a Mile off at Sea. In several parts of this Coast, at about 5 or 6 Miles distance from the Shore there are small Hills; and the whole Country is covered with Woods. I know but one River worth observing between *Congo* and *Cheapo*: Yet there are many Creeks and Outlets; but no fresh Water, that I know of, in any part of this Coast, in the dry Season; for the Stagencies and Declivities of the Ground, and the very Droppings of the Trees, in the wet Season, afford Water enough.

R. Cheapo. *Cheapo* is a considerable River, but has no good entering into it for Sholes. Its Course is long, rising near the North-Sea, and pretty far from towards the East. About this River the Country something changes its Face, being Savannah on the West-side; though the East-side is Wood-land, as the other.

The Land here. *Cheapo* **T.** *Cheapo* Town stands on the West-side, at some distance from the Sea; but is small, and of no great Consequence. Its chief Support is from the Pasturage of black Cattle in the Savannahs.

Savannahs. These Savannahs are not level, but consist of small Hills and Valleys, with fine Spots of Woods intermix'd; and from some of these Hills not far

R. Chagre. from *Cheapo*, the River of *Chagre*, which runs into the North-Sea, takes its rise. It runs West for a while; and on the South-side of it, at no great distance from *Panama*, is *Venta de Cruzes*, a small Village of Inns and Store-houses; whither Merchandises that are to be sent down the River *Chagre*

Venta de Cruzes. are carried from *Panama* by Mules, and there embark'd in Canoa's or Pereagoe's; but the Plate is carried all the way by Land on Mules, to *Portobel*. **Carriage to Portobel.** The Country here also is Savannah and Woodland intermix'd; with thick short Hills, especially towards *Panama*.

Between

Between the River of *Cheapo* and *Panama*, further West, are 3 Rivers, of no great Consequence, ^{3 Rivers.} lying open to the Sea. The Land between is low even Land, most of it dry, and cover'd here and there by the Sea, with short Bushes. Near the most Westerly of these Old *Panama* was seated, once a ^{Old *Panama*.} large City; but nothing now remains of it besides Rubbish, and a few Houses of poor People. The *Spaniards* were weary of it, having no good Port or Landing-place; and had a design to have left it, before it was burnt by Sir *Henry Morgan*. But then they no longer deliberated about the Matter; but instead of rebuilding it, rais'd another Town to the Westward, which is the present City of *Panama*. The River of Old *Panama* runs between them; but ^{R. of *Panama*.} rather nearer the new Town than the Old; and into this River small Barks many enter.

The chief advantage which New *Panama* hath a-^{New *Panama*.}bove the Old, is an excellent Road for small Ships, as good as a Harbour; for which it is beholden to ^{The Har-}the Shelter of the neighbouring Isles of *Perica*, ^{bour.} which lie before it, 3 in Number, in a row parallel ^{Isles of *Perica*.} to the Shore. There is very good anchoring, between, at a good distance from the Town; but between the Road and the Town is a Shole or Spit of ^{Shole.} Land; so that Ships cannot come near the Town, but lie nearest to *Perica*; but by this means the Town has them less under command. *Panama* stands on a level Ground, and is surrounded with a high Wall, especially towards the Sea. It hath no Fort besides the Town-Walls; upon which the Sea, which washes it every Tide, beats so strongly, sometimes, as to throw down a part of them. It ^{It Fine Pro-}makes a very beautiful Prospect off at Sea, the ^{spect of *Panama*.} Churches and chief Houses appearing above the rest. The Building appears white; especially the Walls, which are of Stone; and the Covering of the Houses red, for probably they are Pan-tile, which

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is much used by the *Spaniards* all over the *West-Indies*. The Town is surrounded with Savannahs, gentle flat Hills, and Coppes of Wood, which add much to the Beauty of the Prospect; and among these are scattered here and there some *Estantions* or Farm-houses for the managing their Cattle, which are Beeves, Horses and Mules. This Town is the great Rendezvous of this Part of the *South-Sea Coast*; being the Receptacle of the Treasures from *Lima*, and other Sea-ports of *Peru*; trading also towards *Mexico*, though very little beyond the Gulph of *Nicaragua*. The King of *Spain* hath a President here, who acts in Concert with his Council; and the Governour of *Portobel* is under him. His Jurisdiction comprehends *Nata*, *Ravelia*, *Leon*, *Realeja*, &c. till he meets with the Government of *Guatimala*; and Eastward he commands over as much of the *Isthmus*, on both Seas, as is under the *Spaniards*. The place is very sickly, though it lies in a Country good enough; but possibly 'tis only so to those who come hither from the dry pure Air of *Lima* and *Truxillio*, and other parts of *Peru*; who grow indispos'd presently, and are forc'd to cut off their Hair. Yet is it very healthy in comparison of *Portobel*.

About a League to the West of *Panama* is another River, which is pretty large, and is called by some *Rio Grande*. It is shole at the Entrance, and runs very swift; and so is not fit for Shipping. On the West-banks of it are *Estantions* and Plantations of Sugar; but the Shore from hence beginning to trend away to the Southward again, I shall here fix my Western Boundary to the *South-Sea Coast* of the *Isthmus*, and go no further in the Description of it.

The Shore between Point *Garachina* and this River, and so on further to *Punta Mala*, makes a very regular, and more than semicircular Bay, called by

by the Name of the Bay of *Panama*. In this Bay of are several as fine Islands, as are any where to be found, the *Kings* or *Pearl Islands*, *Pacheque*, *Chepelio*, *Perica*, &c. with great Variety of good Riding for Ships: Of all which Mr. *Dampier* hath given a particular Account in the 7th Chapter of his *Voyage round the World*: so that I shall forbear to say any thing more of them. 'Tis a very noble delightful Bay; and as it affords good Anchoring and Shelter, so the Islands also yield Plenty of Wood, Water, Fruits, Fowls, and Hogs, for the Accommodation of Shipping.

The Soil of the Inland part of the Country is generally very good, for the most part of a black loamy Mould. From the Gulph of *St. Michael*, to the Ridge of Hills lying off *Caret Bay*, it is a very good Country, well water'd with the Rivers that fall into that Gulph: But near the Gulph 'tis very swampy and broken, so as that it is scarce possible to travel along the Shore thereabouts. Westward of the River of *Congo*, the Country grows more hilly and dry, with pleasant and rich Vales intermix'd, till you are past the River *Cheapo*; and thus far the whole Country is all, as it were, one continued Wood. The Savannah Country commences here, dry and grassy; with small Hills and Woods intermix'd: And the Hills are every where fertile to the Top (though more fruitful nearer the Bottom) and even the Tops of the main Ridge are cover'd with very flourishing Trees. Yet the Hills from which the Gold Rivers fall, near *Santa Maria*, are barren towards the Top, and bear short Shrubs scatter'd here and there. The Soil seems capable of any Productions proper to the Climate: I believe we have nothing that grows in *Jamaica* but what would thrive here also, and grow very luxuriantly, considering the exceeding Richness of the Soil.

The

Mr. WAFER's Description

The
Woods.

The Woods of this Country are not the same on the Tops or Sides of the Hills in the Inland Country, as they are near the Sea. For in the drier and more rising Inland Country, the Woods are rather a large Forest of Timber-trees, or a delightful Grove of Trees of several kinds, very large and tall, with little or no Under-wood: And the Trees are placed at such a Distance from each other, as that a Horse might gallop among them for a great way, and decline them with ease. The Tops of these Trees are generally very large and spreading; and, I presume, 'tis the Shade and Dropping of these which hinder any thing else from growing in the rich Ground among them: For in the open Savannahs, or where the Ground is clear'd by Industry for Plantations, there grow smaller Vegetables in greater Abundance. But on the Sea-Coast, where the Soil is often swampy drown'd Land, especially near the Mouths of Rivers, the Trees are not tall but shrubby as Mangroves, Brambles, Bamboes, &c. not growing in the manner of Groves or Arbours, scattering at convenient Distances; but in a continued Thicket, so close set, that 'tis a very difficult Matter to work one's way through these Morasses.

Swampy
Thickets.

The Weather.
Season of
the Rains.

The Weather is much the same here as in other Places of the Torrid Zone in this Latitude, but inclining rather to the wet Extreme. The Season of Rains begins in April or May; and during the Months of June, July and August, the Rains are very violent. It is very hot also about this Time, where-ever the Sun breaks out of a Cloud: For the Air is then very sultry, because then usually there are no Breezes to fan and cool it, but it is glowing hot. About September the Rains begin to abate: But 'tis November or December, and, it may be, part of January e're they are quite gone: So that 'tis a very wet Country, and has Rains for 2
Thirds,

Thirds, if not 3 Quarters of a Year. Their first coming is after the Manner of our sudden *April* Showers, or hasty Thunder Showers, one in a Day at first. After this, 2 or 3 in a Day; at length a Shower almost every Hour; and frequently accompanied with violent Thunder, and Lightning: Thunder During which Time, the Air has often a faint sul- and Light- phurous Smell, where pent up among the Woods. ning.

After this variable Weather, for about 4 or 6 Weeks, there will be settled continued Rains of several Days and Nights, without Thunder and Lightning, but exceeding vehement, considering the Length of them. Yet at certain Intervals between these, even in the wettest of the Season, there will be several fair Days intermix'd, with only Tornado's or Thunder-Showers; and that sometimes for a Week together. These Thunder-Showers cause usually a sensible Wind, by the Clouds pressing the Atmosphere, which is very refreshing, and moderates the Heat: But then this Wind shaking the Trees of this continued Forest, their dropping is as troublesome as the Rain it self. When the Shower is over, you shall hear a great way together the Croaking of Frogs and Toads, the humming of Moskito's or Gnats, and the hissing or shriekings of Snakes and other Insects, loud and unpleasant; some like the quacking of Ducks. The Moskitoes chiefly infest the low Moskitoes, swampy or Mangrove Lands, near the Rivers or Seas; But however, this Country is not so pester'd with that uneasy Vermin, as many other of the warm Countries are. When the Rains fall a Land- among the Woods, they make a hollow or rattling Floods. sound: But the Floods caus'd by them often bear down the Trees; as I observ'd in relating my Passage over Land. These will often barricado and dam up the River, till 'tis clear'd by another Flood, that shall set the Trees all afloat again. Sometimes also

also the Floods run over a broad Plain ; and for the Time make it all like one great Lake. The coolest Time here is about our Christmas, when the fair Weather is coming on.



Of the Trees, Fruits, &c. in the Isthmus of America.

Trees, &c. AS this Country is very woody, so it contains great Variety of Trees, of several Kinds unknown to us in *Europe*, as well Fruit-Trees as others.

Cotton-Trees. The *Cotton-Tree* is the largest of any, and grows in great Plenty in most parts of the *Isthmus*; but I do not remember that I have seen it in the *Sambalac*, or any other of the adjacent *Islands*. It bears a Cod about as big as a Nutmeg, full of short Wool or Down, which when ripe bursts out of the Cod, and is blown about by the Wind, and is of little use. The chief Advantage that is made of these Trees, is by forming them into Canoes or *Periagos*; which last differ from the other as Lighters and small Barges do from Wherries. The *Indians* burn the Trees hollow; but the *Spaniards* hew and chizzeled them; and the Wood is very soft and easy to work upon, being softer than Willow.

Cedar. The *Cedars* of this Country are valuable for their height and largeness; there are very stately ones on the Continent, but I remember not any in the *Islands*. They grow towards each of the *Sea-Coasts*, but especially towards the North. The Wood is very red, of a curious fine Grain, and very fragrant. But these are put to no better use than the *Cotton-Trees*, serving only to make Canoes and *Periagos*:

riago's: And their Plenty you may judge of by this, that if the *Indians* want to cut one for a Canoa, they will not trouble themselves about any a Furlong off, tho' never so fine; having enough usually to fell by the Side of the River into which they intend to launch it.

There are on the Continent several Trees of the *Maceassu-kind*, of which sort we may reckon the *Mac-tree*. It grows in great Plenty in swampy or moist Grounds; and I remember not that I saw them any where but on the South-side of the *Isthmus*, which is mostly of such a Soil. It is not very tall, the Body rising streight up to about 10 Foot or more, surrounded with protuberant Rings at certain Distances, and those thick-set with long Prickles. The Middle of the Tree is a Pith like Elder, taking up above half the Diameter of the Body. The Body is naked without Branches till towards the Top; but there it puts out Leaves or Branches 12 or 14 Foot long, and a Foot and an half wide, lessening gradually towards the Extremity. The Rib or Seam of this Leaf is beset all along with Prickles, on the Out-side; and the Leaf it self is jagged about the Edges and as thick as one's Hand, at the broader End of it. At the Top of the Tree, and amidst the Roots of these Leaves grows the Fruit, a Sort of Berries sprouting up in Clusters, each about the Size of a small Pear, but many Score of them together. They incline to an Oval Figure, and are of a yellow or reddish Colour when ripe. There is a Stone in the Middle, and the Out-side is stringy, and slimy when ripe; of a tart Taste, harsh in the Mouth, yet not unpleasant: And the way of eating the Fruit is to bite the fleshy Part from the Stone, and having chew'd it, to spit out the remaining stringy Substance. The *Indians* frequently cut down the Tree only to get the Berries; but such of them as are most low and slender, you may

may bend down to your hand. The Wood of the Tree is very hard, black, and ponderous, and is of great use. It splits very easily; and the *Indians* make of it many Conveniences for their Building and other Occasions, splitting the Trees into small Planks or Rafters which they use about their Houses. The Men make Arrow-heads of this Wood; the Women Needle-Shuttles to weave their Cotton, &c.

Bibby-tree Upon the *Main* also grows the *Bibby* Tree, so called from a Liquor which distills from it, and which our *English* call *Bibby*. The Tree hath a streight slender Body no thicker than one's Thigh, but grows to a great Heighth, 60 or 70 Foot. The Body is naked of Leaves or Branches, but prickly. The Branches put out at the Top, and among them grow the Berries abundantly, like a Garland round about the Root of each of the Branches. The Tree hath all along the Inside of it a narrow Pith; the Wood is very hard, and black as Ink. The *Indians* do not cut but burn down the Tree to get at the Berries. These are of a whitish Colour, and about the Size of a Nutmeg. They are very

Nut Oil. oily; and the *Indians* beat them in hollow Mortars or Troughs, then boil and strain them; and as the Liquor cools they skim off a clear Oil from the Top. This Oil is extraordinary bitter: The *Indians* use it for anointing themselves, and to mix with the Colours wherewith they paint themselves.

The Bibby. When the Tree is young they tap it, and put a Leaf into the Bore; from whence the *Bibby* trickles down in great Quantity. It is a wheyish Liquor, of a pleasant tart Taste; and they drink it after it hath been kept a Day or two.

Coco. There are *Coco*-trees in the Islands, but none on the *Isthmus* that I remember; and *Cacao*-trees on either.

On

On the *Main* grows a Tree that bears a Fruit ^{Anony-} like a Cherry ; but full of Stones, and never soft. ^{mous.}

On the *Main* also are *Plantains* in great Abun- ^{Plantains.} dance, which have a Body consisting of several Leaves or Coats, that grow one from under another, spiring upwards into an oblong Fruit at the Top ; the Coats or Leaves, which are very long and large, spreading from the Body, and making a ~~Plant~~ all round. None of them grow wild, unless when some are brought down the Rivers in the Season of the Rains, and being left a ground, sow themselves. The *Indians* set them in Rows or Walks, without Under-wood ; and they make very delightful Groves. They cut them down to get at the Fruit ; and the Bodies being green and sappy, they are cut down with one Stroke of an Axe.

The *Bonano's* also grow on the *Isthmus* very plen- ^{Bonano's.} tifully. They are a sort of *Plantains*. The Fruit is short and thick, sweet and mealy. This eats best raw, and the *Plantain* boil'd.

On the *Islands* there are a great many *Mammee-* ^{Mammee.} trees, which grow with a clear, streight Body, to 60 Foot high, or upwards. The Fruit is very wholesome and delicious ; shap'd somewhat like a Pound-pear, but much larger, with a small Stone or two in the Middle.

The *Mammee Sappota* differs something from the ^{Mammee} other, and is a smaller and firmer Fruit, of a fine ^{Sappota.} beautiful Colour when ripe. It is very scarce on the *Islands* : and neither of these grow on the *Continent*.

So neither are *Sapadilloes* found growing on the ^{Sapadillo's} *Isthmus*, though there is great Plenty of them in the *Islands*. The Tree is not so high as those last ; it grows without Branches to the Top, where it spreads out in Limbs like an Oak. The Fruit is very pleasant to the Taste. It is as small as a *Bergamasco* Pear, and is coated like a Russet-Pippin.

On

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Pine-Apple.

On the *Isthmus* grows that delicious Fruit which we call the *Pine-Apple*, in Shape not much unlike an Artichoke, and as big as a Man's Head. It grows like a Crown on the Top of a Stalk about as big as one's Arm, and a Foot and a half high. The Fruit is ordinarily about 6 Pound Weight; and is inclos'd with short prickly Leaves like an Artichoke. They do not strip but pare off these Leaves to get at the Fruit; which hath no Stone or Kernel in it. 'Tis very juicy; and some fancy it to resemble the Taste of all the most delicious Fruits one can imagine mix'd together. It ripens at all Times of the Year, and is rais'd from new Plants. The Leaves of the Plant are broad, about a Foot long, and grow from the Root.

Prickle-Pear.

On the *Main* also grows the *Prickle-pear*, which is a thick-leav'd Plant about 4 Foot high, full of Prickles all over. That which they call the *Pear* grows at the Extremity of the Leaf. It's a good Fruit, much eaten by the *Indians* and others.

Popes Heads.

There are *Popes Heads*, as we call them, on the *Main*. They are a Plant or Shrub growing like a Mole-hill, and full of Spurs a Span long, sharp, thick and hard, with a black Point. They make a very good Fence, galling the Feet and Legs of any who come among them.

Sugar-Canes.

They have *Sugar-Canes* on the *Isthmus*; but the *Indians* make no other use of them, than to chew them and suck out the Juice.

Manchineel.

There is on the *Islands*, a Tree which is called *Manchineel*, and its Fruit the *Manchineel Apple*. 'Tis in Smell and Colour like a lovely pleasant Apple, small and fragrant, but of a poisonous Nature, for if any eat of any living Creature that has happen'd to feed on that Fruit, they are poison'd thereby, tho' perhaps not mortally. The Trees grow in green Spots; they are low, with a large Body, spreading out and full of Leaves. I have heard



The Indians in their Robes in Council, and smoking tobacco after their way.

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heard that the Wood hath been us'd in fine carved or inlayed Works ; for it is delicately grain'd. But there is danger in cutting it, the very Sap being so poisonous, as to blister the part which any of the Chips strike upon as they fly off. A *French-man* of our Company lying under one of these Trees, in one of the *Samballoes*, to refresh himself, the Rain-water trickling down thence on his Head and Breast, blister'd him all over, as if he had been bestrewed with *Cantbarides*. His Life was saved with much Difficulty ; and even when cured, there remained Scars, like those after the Small-Pox.

The *Mabo*-Tree, which grows here, is about as *Mabo*-big as an Ash. Another Sort of *Mabo*, which is Tree. more common, is smaller, and grows in the moist swampy Places, by the Sides of the Rivers, or near the Sea. Its Bark is ragged like tatter'd Canvass ; if you lay hold on a Piece of it, 'twill rip off in Strings to the Top of the Tree ; the Strings are of a great Length, slender, and very strong. Ropes are made of it for Cables, and Rigging for small Vessels. The way the *Indians* order it is thus : They strip off the Bark in great Flakes : Out of them they draw greater or lesser Strings as they please. These they beat and clean, and twist into Threads and Cords, by rolling them between the Palm of the Hand, and the Knee or Thigh, as our Shoemakers twist their Ends, but much quicker. Of these they make Nets for fishing, but only for great Fish, as Tarpoms, or the like.

The Tree which bears the *Calabash* is short and *Calabash*-thick ; the *Calabash* grows up and down among the Tree. boughs, as our Apples do. It is of a globular Figure, the Out-side of it is an hard Shell, holding the Quantity of 2, 3, 4, or 5 Quarts. These Shells the *Indians* use as Vessels for many Occasions. There are 2 Sorts of these Trees, but the Difference is chiefly in the Fruit ; that of one being sweet,

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the other bitter. The Substance of both is spongy and juicy. That of the sweeter doth yet incline to a tart, sourish Taste. The *Indians*, however, eat them frequently in a March, tho' they are not very delightful. They only suck out the Juice, and spit out the rest. The bitter Sort is not eatable, but very medicinal. They are good in Tertian's; and a Decoction of them in a Clyster is an admirable Specifick in the Torsions of the Guts or ~~dry~~ Gripes. The *Calabash* Shells are almost as hard as those of the *Coco-nuts*, but not half so thick. The *Darien Calabash* is painted, and much esteem'd by the *Spaniards*.

Gourds. There are *Gourds* also which grow creeping along the Ground, or climbing up Trees in great Quantities, like *Pompions* or *Vines*. Of these also there are 2 Sorts, a sweet and a bitter: The Sweet eatable, but not desireable; the Bitter medicinal in the *Passio Iliaca*, Tertian's, Costiveness, &c. taken in a Clyster. But the *Indians* value both Sorts chiefly for their Shells; and the larger Sort of these serve them by way of Pails and Buckets, as *Calabashes* do for Dishes, Cups and Drinking-Vessels.

Silk-Grass. They have a Plant also which is of good use to them, call'd by us *Silk-Grass*; tho' 'tis indeed a kind of Flag. It grows in great Quantities in moist Places on the Sides of Hills. The Roots are knobbed, and shoot out into Leaves like a Sword Blade, as thick as one's Hand in the Middle of the Leaf towards the Root, thinner towards the Edges and the Top; where it ends in a sharp Point, altogether like our Flags, save that the Leaf is much broader, and a Yard or two in Length, and jagged at the Edges like a Saw or some Reap-hooks. The *Indians* cut these Leaves when of a convenient Growth, and having dried them well in the Sun, they beat them into Strings like fine Flax, extraordinary strong, beyond any of our Flax or Hemp: For the Leaf

Leaf it self seems to be nothing but a Congeries of Strings inclos'd with a Skin on each Side. They twist these Strings as they do those of the *Mabo*-tree, and make of them Ropes for Hammocks, Cordage of all Sorts, but especially a finer kind of Nets for small Fish. In *Jamaica* the Shoemakers use this to sew with, as being stronger than any other. The *Spanish* Women make Stockings of it, which are called *Silk-grass Stockings*, and are sold very dear. They make of it also a kind of yellowish Lace, which is much bought and worn by the *Mosetese*-Women in the *West-Indian* Plantations.

There grows here a Tree about the Bigness of an *Light-Elm*, the Wood of which is very light, and we therefore call it *Light-wood*. The Tree is very streight and well-bodied, and has a great Leaf like a Wall-nut. A Man may carry a great Quantity of the Wood when cut down: Its Substance resembles Cork, and is of a whitish Colour; but the Grain of it is rougher than Fir, or coarser yet, like that of the *Cotton-Tree*. I know not whether it has that spongy-Elasticity that Cork has; yet I should think it an excellent Wood for making Tomkins or Stopples for Muzzles of great Guns. 'Tis so very light in Water that 3 or 4 Logs of it, about as thick as one's Thigh and about 4 Foot long, shall make a Rafter on which 2 or 3 Men may go out to Sea. The *Indians* make large Rafters of it upon Occasion after this Manner: They take Logs of this Wood not very big, and bind them together collaterally with *Mabo* Cords, making of them a kind of Floor. Then they lay another Range of Logs a-cross these, at some Distance from each other, and peg them down to the former with long Pins of *Maccaw*-wood; and the Wood of the Float is so soft, and tenacious withal, that it easily gives Admittance to the Peg upon driving, and closes fast about it. The Floats, were they boarded, would

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resemble our *Dyers-floats* in the *Thames* at *London*; and the *Indians* use them chiefly for Passage cross a great River where *Canoas* or other Trees are wanting; or for Fishing.

White-wood.

Another Tree they have which we call *White-wood*. The Body of it grows in Height about 18 or 20 Foot, like a large Willow, and about as thick as one's Thigh. The Leaf is like *Sena*, very small. The Wood is very hard, close and ponderous, and exceeding white, beyond any *European* Wood that ever I saw, and of a very fine Grain: So that I cannot but think it would be very good for inlaying, or other Cabinet-work. I never saw this Tree any where but in this *Isthmus*.

Tamarinds.

They have *Tamarinds* here of the brown Sort, and good, but not well manur'd. The Tree is a fair spreading one, and very large of the kind. The Tree grows usually in a sandy Soil, near a River.

Locust-Tree.

The Tree also that bears the *Locust-fruit*, grows here. The wild Sort is found in great Abundance, 'tis not much unlike the *Tamarind*.

Bastard-Cinnamon.

They have a *Bastard-Cinnamon* also, bearing a Cod shorter than a *Bean-cod*, but thicker, it grows only on the *Main*.

Bamboes.

Bamboes grow here but too plentifully, like a Briar, whole Copses of them. The Branches or Canes grow in Clusters 20 or 30 or more of them from one Root, and guarded with Prickles. They render the Places where they grow almost impassable, which are generally swampy Grounds, or the Sides of the Rivers. They are found mostly on the *Main*, the *Islands* having only some few of them.

Hollow-Bamboes.

The *Hollow Bamboes* are on the *Main* only. They grow 20 or 30 Foot in Height, and as thick as one's Thigh. They have Knots all along at the Distance of about a Foot and a half. All the Space from

from Knot to Knot is hollow, and of a Capacity usually of a Gallon or more, and these are serviceable on many Occasions. The Leaves of this Shrub are like Eldern-leaves, in a Cluster at the Top of each Cane, and these also grow thick together in Copses.

Mangrove-Trees grow out of the Water both in *Mangrove*. Islands and Main, rising from several Roots like Stilts entangled one among another. The Roots or Stumps appear some Feet above Water, rising from a pretty Depth also from under the Surface of it, and at length they unite altogether, Arbour-wise, into the Body of a lusty tall Tree, of a Foot or two Diameter. There is scarce any passing along where these Trees grow, the Roots of them are so blended together. The Bark of the *Mangroves* that grows in Salt Water is of a red Colour, and is us'd for tanning of Leather. I have some Reason to think that the Tree from whence the *Peruvian* or *Jesuit's Bark* is fetch'd is of the *Mangrove* kind; for when I was last at *Arica* in *Peru*, I saw a Caravan of about 20 Mules with this Bark just come in, and then unloading at a Store-house. One of our Company, who spake *Spanish*, ask'd a *Spaniard* who guided the Drove, from whence he fetch'd that Bark; He answered from a great fresh Water Lake behind a Mountain a great way within Land; at the same Time pointing at a very high Ridge of Hills we saw at a great Distance from us and the Sea. Being further examined as to the Tree it grew on, he so describ'd it, by those intangled Stilts, and other Particulars, that our Interpreter said to him, sure it must be a *Mangrove-Tree*! The *Spaniard* answer'd, Yes, a fresh-water *Mangrove*: Yet he said it was a very small Tree, which the *Mangrove* is not, unless this should be a Dwarf-kind of it. We brought away with us several Bundles of this Bark, and I found it to be the right Sort, by the frequent use

use I made of it in *Virginia* and elsewhere; and I have some of it now by me.

Pepper. They have two Sorts of *Pepper*, the one called *Bell-Pepper*, the other *Bird-Pepper*, and great Quantities of each, much used by the *Indians*. Each Sort grows on a Weed, or Shrubby Bush about a Yard high. The *Bird-Pepper* has the smaller Leaf, and is by the *Indians* better esteemed than the other, for they eat a great deal of it.

Red-Wood. There is on the *Main* a Red Sort of *Wood* that might be of good use for *Dyers*. It grows mostly towards the *North-Sea* Coast, upon a River that runs towards the *Samballoes*, about 2 Miles from the Sea-shore. I saw there great Quantities of these Trees: They are 30 or 40 Foot high, about as big as one's Thigh, and the Out-side is all along full of Cavities or Notches in the Bark. When the Wood is cut, it appears of a Yellowish Red. With this, and a kind of Earth which they have up the Country, the *Indians* dye Cottons for their Hammocks and Gowns. I tried a little of it, which upon boiling two Hours in fair Water, turn'd it red as Blood. I dipt therein a Piece of Cotton, which it died of a good Red; and when I wash'd it, it turn'd but a little paler, which I imputed to the want only of something to fix the Colour; for no washing could fetch out the Tincture. 'Twas a bright and glossy Red, very lively.

Potatoes. The *Indians* have several Roots which they plant; especially *Potatoes*, which they roast and eat.

Yams. They do the same also by *Yams*; of which they have 2 Sorts, a White and a Purple.

Cassava. They have a Root call'd *Cassava*, not much unlike a Parsnip. There are 2 Sorts also of these, a sweet, and a poisonous. The sweet Sort they roast and eat as they do *Potatoes* or *Yams*. Of the poisonous they make Bread, having first press'd out the Juice, which is noxious. Part of the remaining Substance

Substance they grate to a Powder; and having a Baking-stone, or Trivet set over a Fire, they strew the Flower over the hot Stone gradually, which bakes it all to a Cake, the Bottom hard-bak'd and brown, the rest rough and white, like our Oat-cakes; they use to hang them on the Houses or Hedges, where they dry and grow crisp. In *Jamaica* they use them frequently instead of Bread; and so in other of the *West-Indian* Islands.

These *Indians* have *Tobacco* among them. *It Tobacco.* grows as the *Tobacco* in *Virginia*, but is not so strong: Perhaps for want of transplanting and manuring, which the *Indians* don't well understand; for they only raise it from the Seed in their Plantations. When 'tis dried and cured they strip it from the Stalks; and laying 2 or 3 Leaves upon one another, they roll up all together sideways into a long Roll, yet leaving a little Hollow. Round this they roll other Leaves one after another, in the same Manner, but close and hard, till the Roll be as big as one's Waist, and 2 or 3 Feet in length. Their way of smoaking when they are in Company *Indian way of smoaking* together, is thus: A Boy lights one end of a Roll and burns it to a Coal, wetting the part next it to keep it from wasting too fast. The end so lighted he puts into his Mouth, and blows the Smoak through the whole Length of the Roll into the Face of every one of the Company or Council, though there be 2 or 300 of them. Then they, sitting in their usual Posture upon Forms, make, with their Hands held hollow together, a kind of Funnel round their Mouths and Noses. Into this they receive the Smoak as 'tis blown upon them, snuffing it up greedily and strongly, as long as ever they are able to hold their Breath, and seeming to bless themselves, as it were, with the Refreshment it gives them.

Of the ANIMALS; and first of Beasts and Reptiles.

THE Variety of Beasts in this Country is not very great; but the Land is so fertile, that upon clearing any considerable Part of the Woods it would doubtless afford excellent Pasture for the maintaining black Cattle, Swine, or whatever other Beasts 'tis usual to bring out of *Europe* into these Climates.

Pecary. The Country has of its own a kind of Hog, which is called *Pecary*, not much unlike a *Virginia* Hog. 'Tis black, and has little short Legs, yet is pretty nimble. It has one thing very strange, that the Navel is not upon the Belly, but the Back: And what is more still, if upon killing a *Pecary* the Navel be not cut away from the Carcass within 3 or 4 Hours after at farthest, 'twill so rot all the Flesh, as not only to render it unfit to be eaten, but make it stink insufferably. Else 'twill keep fresh several Days, and is very good wholesome Meat, nourishing and well tasted. The *Indians* barbecue it, when they would keep any of it longer: The Manner in which they do it I shall describe elsewhere. These Creatures usually herd together, and range about in Drove; and the *Indians* either hunt them down with their Dogs, and so strike them with their Lances, or else shoot them with their Arrows, as they have Opportunity.

Warree. The *Warree* is another kind of Wild-Hog they have, which is also very good Meat. It has little Ears, but very great Tusks; and the Hair or Bristles 'tis covered with are long, strong and thickset, like a coarse Furr all over its Body. The *Warree* is fierce,

fierce, and fights with the *Pecary*, or any other Creature that comes in his way. The *Indians* hunt these also as the other, and manage their Flesh the same way, except only as to what concerns the Navel; the Singularity of which is peculiar to the *Pecary*.

They have considerable Store of *Deer* also, resembling most our *Red Deer*; but these they never hunt nor kill; nor will they ever eat of their Flesh, though 'tis very good; but we were not shy of it. Whether it be out of Superstition, or for any other Reason that they forbear them, I know not: But when they saw some of our Men killing and eating of them, they not only refus'd to eat with them, but seem'd displeas'd with them for it. Yet they preserve the Horns of these Deer, setting them up in their Houses; but they are such only as they shed, for I never saw among them so much as the Skin or Heart of any of them that might shew they had been kill'd by the *Indians*; and they are too nimble for the *Indians*, if not a Match for him.

The *Dogs* they have are small, not well shap'd, then Hair rough and shaggy, like our Mungrels. They serve only to bark and start the Game, or by their barking give Notice to the Hunters to shoot their Arrows. They will run about in this Manner from Morning to Night; but are such meer whiffling Curs, that, of 2 or 300 Beasts started in a Day, they shall seldom kill above 2 or 3; and these not by running them down, but by getting them at a Bay and besetting them, till the Hunters can come up with them. Large strong Dogs would make better Work here; and it might be a very acceptable Thing to the *Indians* to transport hither a Breed of such: But then they must keep to their Houses, or they would be in Danger of running wild in this Country.

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Rabbits.

Here are *Rabbits*, call'd by our *English*, *Indian* Conies. They are as large as our Hares; But I know not that this Country has any Hares. These Rabbits have no Tails, and but little short Ears; and the Claws of their Feet are long. They lodge in the Roots of Trees, making no Burrows; and the *Indians* hunt them, but there is no great Plenty of them. They are very good Meat, and eat rather moister than ours.

Monkeys.

There are great Drovers of *Monkeys*, some of them white, but most of them black; some have Beards, others are beardless. They are of a middle Size, yet extraordinary fat at the dry Season, when the Fruits are ripe; and they are very good Meat, for we ate of them very plentifully. The *Indians* were shy of eating them for a while; but they soon were perswaded to it, by seeing us feed on them so heartily. In the rainy Season they have Worms in their Bowels. I have taken a Handful of them out of one Monkey we cut open; and some of them 7 or 8 Foot long. They are a very waggish Kind of Monkey, and plaid a thousand antick Tricks as we march'd at any Time through the Woods, skipping from Bough to Bough, with the young one's hanging at the old one's Back, making Faces at us, chattering, and, if they had Opportunity, pissing down purposely on our Heads. To pass from Top to Top of high Trees, whose Branches are a little to far asunder for their Leaping, they will sometimes hang down by one another's Tails in a Chain; and swinging in that Manner, the lowermost catches hold of a Bough of the other Tree, and draws up the rest of them.

No Euro-
pean Cat-
tle.
Rats and
Mice.
Cats much
esteem'd.

Here are no *Bullocks*, *Horses*, *Asses*, *Sheep*, *Goats*, or other such Beasts as we have for Food or Service. They are exceedingly pester'd with *Mice* and *Rats*, which are mostly grey; and a Brood of *Cats* therefore to destroy these, might be as acceptable.

table a Present to them as better Dogs for their hunting. When I left the *Isthmus*, two of the *Indians* who came aboard the same Vessel at the *Sambaloes*, went a cruising with us towards the *Corn-Islands* and *Cartagena*: And when they were dispos'd to return, and we were studying to oblige 'em with some Present, one of them spied a Cat we had aboard, and begg'd it. Which we had no sooner given him, but he and his Consort, without staying for any other Gift, went immediately into their Canoa, and paddled off with Abundance of Joy. They had learnt the Use of Cats while they were aboard.

They have Snakes, but of what kind I don't well remember; nor did I see or hear any Rattle Snakes. Insects and Vermin. Spiders they have many, very large, but not poisonous. They have Lice in their Heads; which they beat out with their Fingers, and eat as they catch them.

There is a sort of Insect like a Snail in great Plenty among the *Caribbees*, which is called the *Soldier-Insect*; but I don't remember I saw any of them upon the Main. The Reason of the Name, is because of the Colour; for one third part of his Body about his Head, which is out of the Shell, is in Shape and Colour like a boil'd Shrimp, with little Claws, and two larger like those of a Crab. That part within the Shell, the Tail especially, is eatable, and is good Food, very well tasted and delicious, like Marrow. We thrust a Skuer through this part, and roast a pretty many of them in a Meat-bowl. The Forepart is bony and useless. They feed upon the Ground, eating what falls from Trees: And they have under the Chin a little Bag, into which they put a reserve of Food. Beside this they have in them a little Sand-Bag, which must always be taken out when they are to be eaten. Delicious Sand-bag. This Bag is commonly pretty full of Sand: And
Conch

Mr. WAFER's Description

Poison-
ous if fed
with
*Manchi-
neel*.

The Oil
an excel-
lent Salve.

*Land-
Crabs,*

where.

Anguilla.

*Crab-
Island.
Good
Meat.*

Conch and Welks, and other Shell-fish, have usually a Sand in a Vessel that runs the length of the Body in Manner of a Gut; which we are forc'd to take out, for else they would be gritty in one's Teeth. If these *Soldiers* eat of any of the *Manchineel*-Apples which drop from the Trees, their Flesh becomes so infected with that virulent Juice, as to poison in a Manner those who eat of it: And we have had some of our Company very sick by eating such as had fed on *Manchineel*; but after a while 'twould wear off again, without further Damage. The Oil of these Insects is a most Sovereign Remedy for any Sprain or Contusion. I have found it so, as many others have done frequently: The *Indians* use it that way very successfully, and many of the Privateers in the *West-Indies*: And our Men sought them as much for the Oil, as for the sake of eating them. The Oil is of a yellow Colour, like Wax, but of the Consistency of Palm-Oil.

On the *Samballoe* I think there are also *Land-Crabs*, tho' but few: But in the *Caribbee*-Islands, among which I have been cruising, and especially on *Anguilla*, they are very numerous, and some very large, as big as the largest Sea-Crabs that are sold at *London*. They have them also in other of the *West-India* Islands; but on *Anguilla* they swarm; and a little Island near it has such Multitudes of them, that 'tis call'd *Crab-Island*. They are excellent good Meat, and are the main Support of the Inhabitants, who range about a Crabbing, as they call it. After a Shower of Rain they will come abroad; and then is the best Time to look out for them. They live in Holes or Burrows like Rabbits, which they dig for themselves with their Claws. When they are upon the March they never go about, nor turn their Backs, but crawl over any thing that lies in their Way, guarding with their great Claws while they creep with the small ones; and whatever they

they lay hold of they pinch very severely. The Inhabitants of some of these Isles, when they take any of them, put them for 3 or 4 Days into a Piece ^{fatten'd} of *Potato*-ground to fatten them; for which they ^{tatoes.} are said to eat much the better.

Alligators and *Guano's*, which are also very good *Alligators*. Meat, especially the Tail of the *Alligator*, I have eaten in several Parts of the *West-Indies*; but I don't remember my seeing either of them in the *Isthmus*.

The *Guano* is all over very good Meat, preferr'd to *Guanoes*. a Pullet or Chicken, either for the Meat or Broth. Their Eggs also are very good; but those of the *Alligator* have too much of a musky Flavour, and sometimes smell very strong of it. There are

up and down the *Isthmus* a great many *Lizards*, *Lizards*. green, and red-speckled; but those in the swampy Land and Thickets look more black or rusty. They are none of them large, generally less than a Span. I never saw the *Indians* eat of them. They are pretty innocent familiar Creatures, and the *Indians* suffer them to creep up and down their Houses.

They have Frogs and Toads, and other smaller Insects; but I took no particular Notice of them.

The

